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UNCLAS PRETORIA 000056

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DEPT FOR AF/S TCRAIG AND KGAITHER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AEMR](#) [EAID](#) [PGOV](#)

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN RELIEF EFFORTS FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS

REF: SECSTATE 959

1. Per reftel, Econoff delivered talking points to South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Assistant Director on the USA Desk Liezl Combrink. Combrink thanked Econoff for the delivered talking points and noted that the SAG established a DFA Relief Coordinating Center to be the official entity for fielding private-sector donation requests for Tsunami relief. DFA Officers Johan van Wyk (27) (84) 514-7094 and Johan Paschals (27) (73) 332-0842 are the points of contact at the Center.

2. Paschals told Econoff that the Center is encouraging interested donors to make contributions to a relief fund being administered by the South African Red Cross. He said that as of January 5 between R2-3 million (\$350-525k) had been donated. Paschal said that Minister of Health Ms. Manto Tshabalala-Msimang and Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry

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Ms. Buyelwa Sonjica are attending the donor meeting in Indonesia and would have a much better idea of what the specific needs are following the donor meeting. He said the SAG would announce its disaster relief plan at the January 11 donor conference in Geneva.

3. Paschals also noted other private relief efforts such as Pick'n Pay grocery store receptacles accepting cash or in-kind contributions. Other relief fund have been announced by the Anglican Church, the South African Tamil Federation, the Council of Muslim Theologians, Netcare, First National Bank, and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. In addition, Western Cape Premier Ebrahim Rasool presented a check of R500,000 (\$88k) to Indonesia's Ambassador Abdul Nasier on behalf of the Western Cape Government and investment/offshore company OASIS towards relief efforts in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and the Maldives. Several medical relief teams have also been organized by the private sector.
HARTLEY